

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 70

Expressing the sense of Congress that the anniversary of the birth of Malcolm X should be observed as a day of prayer, remembrance, and reflection on the life of Malcolm X.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2003

Mr. RANGEL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the anniversary of the birth of Malcolm X should be observed as a day of prayer, remembrance, and reflection on the life of Malcolm X.

Whereas Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little on May 19, 1925, in Omaha, Nebraska;

Whereas his father, a Baptist Minister and adherent of the Black nationalist teachings of Marcus Garvey, was persecuted by the Ku Klux Klan and, some believe, murdered due to his outspokenness regarding those beliefs;

Whereas Malcolm X was a bright young student who left school after the 8th grade, when his interest in eventually studying the law was ridiculed and discouraged by teachers;

Whereas he spent a part of his formative years in foster homes after the illness of his mother;

Whereas while in prison after falling into a life of crime, he was introduced to the teachings of the Black Muslim religion and transformed his life to a study of history and philosophy;

Whereas he became the organization's preeminent spokesman and organizer, and went on to found Black Muslim mosques in Philadelphia, Boston, and New York;

Whereas he was a spokesman for a modern-day philosophy of Black Nationalism, earlier espoused by Marcus Garvey, encompassing economic and political independence, self-reliance, and self-defense;

Whereas he was an eloquent speaker, recognized around the world for articulating the concerns of the masses of Black America;

Whereas his growing popularity, controversial statements, and criticism of the Black Muslim leadership led to his suspension, and later, resignation from the organization;

Whereas he went on to found the Organization of Afro-American Unity;

Whereas the Organization of Afro-American Unity espoused a philosophy of unity with Black people around the world and argued the case for exploited people of all races;

Whereas following a pilgrimage to Mecca, he adopted the traditional Muslim religion and modified his views to a philosophy of universal brotherhood;

Whereas he came to believe that progress for Black Americans could be assisted by Black and White organizations around the world, particularly the United Nations;

Whereas he was a distinguished participant in the summit of African heads of State, held in Cairo in November 1964;

Whereas he was inspired by the belief, as he said, that “education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today”;

Whereas from humble beginnings his dedication to education and struggle resulted in an extraordinary transformation into a figure of international renown;

Whereas Malcolm X, a highly controversial figure in his lifetime, has emerged as a symbol of strength, and is a hero to today’s Black youth and millions of people around the world;

Whereas his unrelenting stance on questions of justice, equality, and freedom appeals to their longing for relief from hopelessness born of economic deprivation;

Whereas he was assassinated in the Audubon Ballroom in New York City on February 21, 1965, at the age of 39:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that the anni-
3 versary of the birth of Malcolm X should be observed as
4 a day of prayer, remembrance, and reflection on the life
5 of Malcolm X.

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